CHAPTER V.

FOREST ADMINISTRATION.

TOUR OF THE CONSERVATOR.

180. On November 10th, I left head-quarters, and, accompanied by the Divisional Officer, Belgaum, marched through the Gókák-forests to Panchgáon. From Panchgáon I went to Kaládgi, in the Bijápúr District, and thence to Bágalkót and Bijápúr. At Bijápúr, I met the Divisional Officer, and, after a stay of 4 days, proceeded to Nílgund and Bádámi. On December 5, I took train to Dharwar, where I met the Divisional Officer, and, after a stay of 4 days, continued my journey south to the Ranebennur and Kód tálukas of Dharwar. On the 25th December, I left Hírekerúr in Kód, and marched, *viâ* Shirálkóp and Sórab, in Mysore, to Siddápúr and Jóg, in the Southern Division of Kánara, which was reached on January 1. On the 6th, I continued my journey towards Honáwar, where I met the Divisional Officer, Southern Division of Kánara, on the 10th. Thence we went to Chandávar, Katgál, Hireguti, Ankólá, Karwar, Kothebhávi, Sunksál, and, up the Arbail-ghát, to Yellápúr, which was reached on February 18. After a halt of 6 days at Yellápúr, I proceeded to Manchikeri, Kalli, Sóndá, and Sirsi, which was reached on March 22. On the 24th, Camp was moved to Banwási, and thence to Dásankóp, Pálá, Chitgeri, and Bilki, in the Central Division of Kanara, which was reached on April 1. On the 6th, Camp was moved to Yellápúr. From Yellápúr, where I met the Divisional Officer, Central Division of Kanara, I proceeded to Halyál, in the Northern Division of Kanara, which was reached on the 19th April. Thence Camp was moved to Barchi, and afterwards to Nágargáli, Astóli, Anmod, Chándwádi, Jagalbet, and back to Nágargáli, which was reached on May 23rd. On June 13th, I returned to head-quarters for the rains.

ESTABLISHMENT.

181. The *personnel* remained the same as in the previous year, save for the addition of Mr. Copleston, a home-trained officer, who was posted on arrival in India to this Circle, and of 4 students, from the College of Science, appointed probationers.

182. The actual cost on account of the superior and subordinate staffs amounted to Rs. 1,24,916 and Rs. 1,17,977, respectively, against Rs. 1,10,391 and Rs. 1,17,940 of 1893-94.

183. The changes among the officers of the superior staff were :—

184. Mr. Stewart, Divisional Forest-Officer, Kolábá, transferred to the Panch Maháls, handed over charge of his office, on the afternoon of 20th July, 1894, to Mr. W. G. Betham, transferred from the Central, to this, Circle.

185. Mr. H. Mitra, Extra-Assistant-Conservator, Working Plans' Party I, was on privilege-leave from 5th August to 17th September, 1894.

186. Mr. W. G. Betham, Divisional Forest-Officer, Kolábá, was on 2 months' leave on medical certificate, from 15th August to 15th October, 1894, during which time the charge of his office was held by Mr. A. C. Robinson, Extra-Assistant-Conservator and sub-Divisional Officer, Kolábá, in addition to his own, for part of that time (14th to 17th August), and, for the rest of it, by Mr. F. R. Dasai, transferred from the Central, to this, Circle.

187. Mr. Sheshu Manju, Extra-Assistant- Conservator, was on privilege leave from January 21 to April 17th, 1895. Mr. G. J. Rege, Ranger, acted for him.

188. Mr. W. A. Talbot, Divisional Forest Officer, Northern Division of Kanara, proceeded on 3 months' privilege-leave, handing over charge of his office on 1st March, 1895, to Mr. H. Murray, Divisional Officer, Belgaum, who held it, in addition to his own, until relieved on the 30th May, 1895, by Mr. E. G. Oliver, Divisional Officer, Working Plans' Party I.

189. Mr. H. Mainwaring, Divisional Officer, Bijápúr, was on privilege leave from 12th March to 11th May, 1895, during which time the charge of the division was partly held by Mr. T. B. Fry, in addition to his own (Dharwar-Division), (12th to 31st March), and for the rest of it, by Mr. G. K. Betham.

190. Mr. G. K. Betham, on transfer to the Dharwar-Division, handed over charge of the Southern Division of Kanara on the 27th March, 1895, to Mr. D. M. Bijoor, Extra-Assistant-Conservator, who held it until relieved by Mr. E. G. Oliver on the 20th May, 1895, from whom it was taken charge of by Mr. W. A. Talbot on return from leave on the 28th idem.

191. Mr. T. B. Fry proceeded on 14 months' furlough, giving over charge of the Dharwar and Bijápúr Divisions to Mr. G. K. Betham on the 1st April, 1895, who relinquished that of the latter to Mr. Mainwaring on the 12th May, 1895.

192. Mr. E. G. Oliver, Divisional Forest-Officer, Working Plans' Party I, was on 1 month's privilege-leave from 28th January, 1895, and Mr. H. Mitra, Extra-Assistant-Conservator, acted for him.

193. Mr. N. D. Satáráwála, Extra-Assistant-Conservator, Working Plans' Party II, was on 2 months' privilege-leave from April 2, 1895.

GENERAL REMARKS.

194. *Kumri Cultivation in Kánara.*—In the month of May, there was a serious, and apparently preconcerted, outbreak of *kumri* on the Súpá-ghâts in the Northern Division of Kanara. Some inhabitants of Anmód, in the extreme north of the Máhál, began it by burning 20 acres of forest. The adjoining hamlets quickly followed suit, and in a very few days the evil became epidemic all along the ghâts as far south as Anshi, a distance of about 50 miles from Anmód as the crow flies. The efforts of the guards to prevent this illegal cultivation were vain in face of resistance and the odds opposed to them, and all they could do was to report each occurrence, as soon as discovered, to their superiors. On becoming aware of the seriousness of the outbreak, I dispatched as many guards and foresters as could be obtained from Belgaum, and elsewhere, to the assistance of the local officers, and proceeded to the more northern part of the affected area. There I took down the depositions of forty groups of offenders, and Mr. Murray, the Divisional Officer then in charge, did the same for the southern portion. All concerned admitted the offence, and declared that they had committed it because, *kumri* having been closed to them in Goa, they no longer have any means of subsistence. At the same time, they declared their unwillingness to cultivate, on any terms whatsoever, the numerous fallow rice-lands existing in their village areas. In the end, this being the first offence of the kind, the offenders were leniently treated, and let off with small fines, the crops, if any, resulting from the cultivation, being ordered to be destroyed. The total area burnt is estimated to be 385 acres. The work was carried out so hurriedly that only small timber could be burnt, but most of the larger trees were cut down. The pecuniary loss to Government is, however, slight, no very valuable species having been destroyed.

195. *Causes of delay in the submission of the Annual Reports.*—The date prescribed by Government for the submission of the Conservators' reports is October 31st (Government Resolution, Revenue Department, No. 8102, dated 15th November, 1890.) This date was fixed when the forest-year ended on March 31. Now, however, the forest-year has been extended to June 30th, and Divisional Officers' reports are not received by me much before September (this year the first was received on August 14th; the last report was received on September 4). References regarding statements or omissions, have to be made to Divisional Officers, which cause considerable delay in the preparation of my summary.

196. *Approaching retirement of Mr. Davidson.*—Before this report is published, Mr Davidson, now Collector of Kanara, will have retired from the service to the great regret of all forest-officers serving in that district. His intimate acquaintance with the forest-affairs of his district in their relation to public needs, co-operation, and non-interference with purely departmental matters, are qualities which ensure the maintenance of the very cordial relations that have always existed between the Revenue-and Forest-Departments in this, the most important, forest-district of the Presidency.

197. *Services of Officers.*—I have much pleasure in acknowledging the good work done by Divisional Officers and officers of the lower controlling and executive staff, and clerical branch.

198. The executive establishment has a specially hard task to perform, as it is greatly undermanned and due allowance must, therefore, be made for this fact in forming an opinion of the work done by it.

199. The following officers have been specially commended by Divisional Officers for the good work they have done:—

Mr. Mitra, Extra Assistant-Conservator.
Mr. Robinson, do.
Mr. Rege, Ranger.
Mr. Máne, do.
Mr. Nádkarni, Surveyor, Working Plans.

200. The office establishment has also worked satisfactorily.

201. *Health of Establishment.*—I regret to have to report the death of Mr. J. M. Fernandez, Extra-Assistant-Conservator, as well as that of Mr. Ghosekhán, late Ranger in charge of the Halyál-Range. Mr. Fernandez was Divisional Officer, Ratnágiri, at the time of his death, and had served meritoriously for 32 years. Mr. Ghosekhán was also a deserving officer of long standing in the department. The deaths are also reported of 1 forester and 14 guards.

202. The conduct of the subordinate establishment was not altogether satisfactory. Twenty-two guards were dismissed, and 1 forester and 5 guards reduced.

J. L. L. MacGREGOR,
Conservator of Forests, Southern Circle.

Conservator's Office, Southern Circle,
Belgaum, 1st November 1895.

LIST OF STATEMENTS, ACCOMPANYING THE FOREST ADMINISTRATION REPORT OF THE CONSERVATOR OF FORESTS, SOUTHERN CIRCLE, FOR 1894-95.

Form No. 46 ...	Area of Reserved Forests, 1894-95.
„ „ 46A ...	Area of Protected Forests, 1894-95.
„ „ 47 ...	Progress made in, and Expenditure incurred on, Forest Settlements.
„ „ 48 ...	Demarcation and maintenance of Boundaries.
„ „ 49 ...	Forest area surveyed and under survey.
„ „ 50 ...	Progress made in Working-Plans.
„ „ 51 ...	Communications and Buildings.
„ „ 52 ...	Prosecutions for breaches of Forest Rules, during 1894-95.
„ „ 52A ...	Statement showing the number of cases of misappropriation of minor produce of the several Divisions of the Southern Circle for the year 1894-95.
„ „ 52B ...	Statement showing the number of cases dealt with under Section 67 of the Indian Forest Act.
„ „ 52C ...	Statement showing the number of cases in which fines amounting to one Rupee, two Rupees and so on, up to the maximum, were inflicted during 1894-95.
„ „ 53 ...	Area of Forest-tracts protected from fire during 1894-95.
„ „ 54 ...	Area open and closed to grazing during 1894-95.
„ „ 55 ...	Return of grazing in the State Forests during 1894-95.
„ „ 56 ...	Area of Plantations, 1894-95.
„ „ 57 ...	Outturn of Timber and Fuel, 1894-95.
„ „ 58 ...	Outturn of minor Forest Produce, 1894-95.
„ „ 59 ...	Account of Timber and other Produce cut or collected by Government agency and brought to Sale-Depôts or sold locally during the year 1894-95.
„ „ 60 ...	Abstract showing the value of Timber and other Produce at Sale-Depôts for the year 1894-95.
„ „ 60A ...	Abstract showing the value of Live and Dead Stock for the year 1894-95.
„ „ 61 ...	Summary of Revenue and Expenditure of the different Divisions during the year 1894-95.
„ „ 62 ...	Account Current for the year 1894-95.
„ „ 63 ...	Revenue received and Outstandings on account of Revenue during 1894-95.
„ „ 64 ...	Outstandings and Liabilities on account of Contractors and Disbursers for 1894-95.
„ „ 65 ...	Financial results for the year 1894-95.

J. L. L. MacGREGOR,
Conservator of Forests, Southern Circle.

Belgaum, 27th September 1895.

B 1319—6 SC